

In the Claims

The claims remain unchanged.

1. (Original) A double stranded siRNA compound wherein one or both of said RNA strands are derivatized by DNP to form a poly-DNP-siRNA, where DNP denotes a 2'-O-(2,4-dinitrophenyl), wherein positions 3, 5 and 6 of said phenyl group have attached thereto R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 , respectively, and wherein R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halide, linear or branched alkyl, linear or branched acyl, linear or branched alkylene, linear or branched O-alkyl, linear or branched amido, linear or branched amido, linear or branched S-alkyl, mono or disubstituted amine, linear or branched thioamido, phosphothionate and phosphothioate.
2. (Original) The compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are hydrogen.
3. (Original) A method of increasing the stability or efficacy of a double stranded siRNA compound comprising
forming one or both of the native RNA strands as a homologous RNase-resistant RNA, to form a poly-DNP-siRNA, where DNP denotes a 2'-O-(2,4-dinitrophenyl) wherein positions 3, 5 and 6 of said phenyl group have attached thereto R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 , respectively, and wherein R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halide, linear or branched alkyl, linear or branched acyl, linear or branched alkylene, linear or branched O-alkyl, linear or branched amido, linear or branched S-alkyl, mono or disubstituted amine, linear or branched thioamido, phosphothionate and phosphothioate.
4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are each hydrogen.
5. (Original) A method of silencing a targeted gene comprising introducing into a cell containing the targeted gene a poly-DNP-siRNA, where DNP denotes a 2'-O-(2,4-dinitrophenyl), wherein positions 3, 5 and 6 of said phenyl group have attached thereto R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 , respectively, and wherein R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halide, linear or branched alkyl, linear or branched acyl, linear or branched alkylene, linear or branched O-alkyl, linear or branched amido, linear or branched amido, linear or branched S-alkyl, mono or disubstituted amine, linear or branched thioamido, phosphothionate and

phosphothioate.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are hydrogen.
7. (Original) In a method for administering a double-stranded siRNA compound, the improvement comprising an siRNA compound, wherein one or both of said RNA strands are derivatized by DNP to form a poly-DNP-siRNA, where DNP denotes a 2'-O-(2,4-dinitrophenyl), wherein positions 3, 5 and 6 of said phenyl group have attached thereto R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 , respectively, and wherein R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halide, linear or branched alkyl, linear or branched acyl, linear or branched alkylene, linear or branched O-alkyl, linear or branched amido, linear or branched S-alkyl, mono or disubstituted amine, linear or branched thioamido, phosphothionate and phosphothioate.
8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein R^2 , R^4 , and R^5 are hydrogen.
9. (Original) The improvement of claim 7, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 10 and 40 nucleotides.
10. (Original) The improvement of claim 7, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 12 and 30 nucleotides.
11. (Original) The improvement of claim 7, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 15 and 25 nucleotides.
12. (Original) The improvement of claim 8, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 10 and 40 nucleotides.
13. (Original) The improvement of claim 8, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 12 and 30 nucleotides.
14. (Original) The improvement of claim 8, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 15 and 25 nucleotides.
15. (Original) In a therapeutic method for down-regulating gene expression using siRNA, the improvement comprising an siRNA compound, wherein one or both of said RNA

strands are derivatized by DNP to form a poly-DNP-siRNA, where DNP denotes a 2'-O-(2,4-dinitrophenyl), wherein positions 3,5 and 6 of said phenyl group have attached thereto R², R⁴, and R⁵, respectively, and wherein R², R⁴, and R⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halide, linear or branched alkyl, linear or branched acyl, linear or branched alkylene, linear or branched O-alkyl, linear or branched amido, linear or branched S-alkyl, mono or disubstituted amine, linear or branched thioamido, phosphothionate and phosphothioate.

16. (Original) In the improvement of claim 15, wherein R², R⁴, and R⁵ are hydrogen.
17. (Original) In the improvement of claim 15, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 10 and 40 nucleotides.
18. (Original) In the improvement of claim 15, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 12 and 30 nucleotides.
19. (Original) In the improvement of claim 15, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 15 and 25 nucleotides.
20. (Original) In the improvement of claim 16, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 10 and 40 nucleotides.
21. (Original) In the improvement of claim 16, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 12 and 30 nucleotides.
22. (Original) In the improvement of claim 16, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a length of between 15 and 25 nucleotides.